

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1175

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INFO USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0401

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: TREATMENT OF REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS IN DRAFT NATO

GUIDANCE

1. IN VIEW OF THE ENCOURAGING FACT THAT THE SPC IS
CONTINUING ITS DRAFTING WORK ON THE DRAFT GUIDANCE TO THE
AD HOC GROUP ON OPTION 3 AND CONSEQUENTLY, THAT DRAFTING
CHANGES MAY BE MADE IN THE TEXT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, WE
WISH TO DRAW TO THE ATTENTION OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES A
POTENTIAL PROBLEM RELATING TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE GUIDANCE.

2. AS PART OF THEIR EFFORT TO AVOID REDUCTION OF ARMA-
MENTS OR ACCEPTANCE OF LIMITATIONS ON THESE ARMAMENTS,
FRG OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN TAKING THE POSITION AT NATO AND
IN THE TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS OF OPTION 3 THAT THE US

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SHOULD NOT REDUCE ANY FURTHER NUCLEARS BEYOND THE CONTENT

OF OPTION 3 EITHER IN PHASE I OR PHASE II AND THAT THE
WEST SHOULD TELL THE EAST IN CONNECTION WITH TABLING
OPTION 3 THAT THERE WILL BE NO OTHER ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS
OF ANY KIND BEYOND THE CONTENT OF OPTION 3 EITHER BY THE
US OR ITS ALLIES IN PHASE I OR IN PHASE II.

3. THIS APPROACH IS REFLECTED IN THE PROPOSED FRG
LANGUAGE FOR PARAGRAPH 3 BEGIN QUOTE: BEGIN BRACKET THE
ALLIED NEGOTIATORS, IF AND WHEN PRESSED, SHOULD MAKE IT
CLEAR TO THE EASTERN SIDE THAT THIS OFFER IS TO BE UNDER-
STOOD AS FINAL, IN THE SENSE THAT NO OTHER OFFER FOR THE
REDUCTION OF ANY EQUIPMENT OF ANY KIND CAN BE HOPED FOR
IN EITHER PHASE I OR PHASE II FROM EITHER THE
UNITED STATES OR ANY OTHER WESTERN PARTICIPANTS. END
BRACKET. END QUOTE. THE APPROACH IS ALSO REFLECTED IN
SPC DISCUSSION OF THE PRECEDING PARA 3 LANGUAGE ON THE
"UNIQUE TRADE" CONCEPT.

4. THE DELEGATION FULLY AGREES THAT THE GUIDANCE SHOULD SUPPORT
THE CONCEPT OF A ONE-TIME PHASE I OPTION 3 OFFER NOT SUBJECT TO
INCREASE. BUT THE FORMULATIONS PROPOSED BY THE FRG GO BEYOND THAT
POINT. IF THE US FOLLOWS FRG DESIRES, IT WOULD IN EFFECT BE
TELLING THE SOVIETS FROM THE OUTSET WHEN THE WEST PUTS
DOWN OPTION 3 THAT THERE WILL BE NO US AND NO EUROPEAN
ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II AND HENCE, ALSO THAT
THERE WILL BE NO LIMITATIONS ON WESTERN EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS
EITHER IN PHASE I OR PHASE II OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACH.

5. TO THE EXTENT THAT THIS APPROACH PREMATURELY TAKES A POSITION
ON PHASE II WHEN THERE IS NO NEED TO DO SO,
IT WOULD APPEAR TO UNNECESSARILY DECREASE THE
ATTRACTIVENESS FOR THE EAST OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION
APPROACH AT THE TIME WHEN IT IS BEING AUGMENTED BY OPTION
3. MOREOVER, THIS POSITION WOULD TIGHTLY LIMIT FUTURE
FLEXIBILITY OF THE US AS REGARDS PHASE II REDUCTIONS AND
WOULD DETERMINE IN ADVANCE THE ALLIED POSITION AS TO THE
POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER SOVIET TANK WITHDRAWALS IN PHASE II.

6. IT APPEARS DESIRABLE TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH ALLIED
OFFICIALS AND TO TELL THEM THAT (A) WE HAVE NO DESIRE THAT
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THEY TAKE A POSITIVE POSITION ON REDUCING THEIR ARMAMENTS,
(B) BUT THAT TAKING A POSITION NOW AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY
OF ALLIED ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II IS PREMATURE,
(C) THAT THE US IS RELUCTANT TO USE FORMULATIONS WITH THE
EAST AT THIS STAGE WHICH WOULD DECREASE THE ATTRACTIVENESS
OF OPTION 3 THROUGH TAKING POSITIONS ON ISSUES WHICH SHOULD
PROPERLY NOT BE ADDRESSED UNTIL PHASE II. RESOR

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